A Christian

SALUTATION AND GREETING

Unto all the

True Christian People of God

(Often in scorn called

QUAKERS,)

Who are the true Church of Christ, the First-Born in *England*, In this latter AGE and GENERATION.

From a Friend, Brother & Companion with all the Saints and Children of Light, in their Sufferings and Tribulations; And also a Partaker (through the Grace of God) of the Blessed Inheritance with all the Saints in Light.

John Higgins.

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A *Christian Salutation* and *Greeting*, unto all the true Christian People of God (often in scorn called *QUAKERS*) &c.

MOst dear and well-beloved *Friends* and *Brethren*, who have received *Grace*, *Mercy*, and *Peace* from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in this the glorious Day of his blessed Appearance, with the day-spring from on High, unto the turning of your Captivity, and freely ransoming your Souls out of the horrible Pit and Gulf of darkness and misery, which is the dwelling (you know) of all the Children of disobedience.

O ye *dear Children* of the Light, *and true born Sons of the Morning*; you above all the Families on the Earth are known unto the Lord, through your *Faith* and *Obedience* unto Christ, the true Light and Power of God, who is indeed become the *Captain of our Salvation*; and you whose Souls are made subject to the Light and Power of his eternal Spirit, and become Followers of the Son of God, *the Lord from Heaven*, who is a *quickening Spirit*; here his precious Life is felt, known, and enjoyed by all his faithful Followers; and blessed are you, ye dear and well-beloved of the Father, who are become willing and obedient Followers of the Lamb in Righteousness, in this the day of his mighty Power and blessed Appearance unto you all, who were once (as well as others) scattered upon the barren *Mountains*, and knew not the voice of the Shepherd of *Israel*, and then, Oh then, what were your *Travels*, your *Sorrows*, and *Weepings*, and *Mourning*, because of the want of your *Beloved*! This was once my state with you, O ye that were oppressed, and afflicted in spirit, and travelled in pain, until the dawning of the Light and Day of the Lord, that we came to see Him whom our

Souls loved; and to follow him faithfully in Righteousneſs, who is now become our *Leader* and *Commander*, and the *Captain of our Salvation*: Oh! what might we now ſay of the wonderful Works of the Lord our God, which he hath wrought for us, and in us, ſince the day of his bleſſed Appearance, that our Souls became ſubject unto his Power, and Followers of Him in Spirit and in Truth? Oh! how did he utter his Voice againſt the man of Sin, inſomuch that the Earth did *fear* and *tremble* at his Appearance? And how cauſed he the Rocks and the Mountains to melt as wax before Him? for his Appearance was to Ranſom his own Seed that was then in great *Captivity* and *Bondage*, and to chain the *Devil* and *Satan*, that *crooked Serpent*, never more to *Deceive*. Oh, this is He whom we have ſeen and known, leading Captivity captive; and He it was that wounded and healed, that killed and made alive, that the living might praiſe and magnifie his Name, that now lives and reigns for ever, and for evermore.

O ye *Children* of the Light, and Sons of *Sion's King*, there's none knows the Womb of your Conception, but the Children of her own Bowels, who is the Mother of us All; nor none of the Sons of Bondage knows the *Royalty* of your Birth and Generation, but thoſe of the ſame *Off-ſpring* and *Linage*, of the everlaſting Seed of bleſſing, unto which all the Promiſes of God are *Yea*, and *Amen* for evermore.

And, O thou Daughter of *Sion*, there's no Stranger that ever knew the Travel and Sorrow of thy day before Conception, and now indeed there's none of the uncircumciſed Children of Bondage, that can inter-meddle with thy Joy, and the Lot of thine Inheritance.

O thou that waſt once as a ſilly Dove in the Wilderneſs, and as an Owle in the Deſart, and even as a Pelican in the moſt deſolate places, and then didſt thou travel on, as in a vaſt howling Wilderneſs, beſet with ſorrow and travels on every hand; and then, Oh, how did all the *Egyptians* and the *Uncircumciſed* rejoyce at thy ſorrow, and ſported themſelves with the brokenneſs of thine Heart, and the travel of thy Soul, not conſidering that all this came upon thee, as the diſpoſings and orderings of thy *Maker*, thy *Husband*, *the Lord of Hoſts is his Name*, ſo as to humble, and ſanctifie thy ſoul, and to cleanſe thee from all *Fornica-*

nation, that thou mightest be his own Beloved, and his *peculiar Treasure*, and the *choicest* of ten thousands.

O ye dearly beloved of my Soul, surely that eye which hath seen the great and wonderful Works of the Lord our God wrought in us and for us, cannot but *admire* his infinite glorious Acts, even with great *Admiration*. And certainly that Heart that understands these things cannot but *fear*, and *dread*, and *reverence* his holy *Name* and *Power*, even from henceforth and for evermore.

Now at his first Appearance (dearly Beloved) you know, it was he that made us to differ from the world of Ungodly, he made us sensible of his eternal Light and Truth shining in our hearts, and thereby he gave us an understanding to eschew the evil, and cleave unto that which was good, and thus he changed our minds, and converted our hearts, from the darkness unto the Light, and from *Satan's* power unto the power of the Lord our God. And in this eternal Power and Spirit, in the Light of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have waited upon him, and he hath been with us, and answered us, and now dwells in us and amongst us, according to his Promise, and he is become our *Teacher* and *Leader*, *and the Captain of our Salvation*.

And thus he becomes *Wisdom*, *Sanctification*, and *Redemption*, unto all his faithful Followers, whom he hath led, and is leading, (as his ransomed Ones) out of the great *Captivity*, and *Bondage*, and *Servitude* of the *Devil*, the power of Darkness, who hath ruled in times past, as *Lord* and *King* over them, and hath led them (also) captive at his will, into the disobedience against God. And now blessed are all ye that are come to know him whom the Father hath ordained to be the Messenger of his *everlasting Covenant*, and that is leading on unto *Salvation*.

And blessed are you that follow him in faithfulness whithersoever he goeth; for now he is not only leading of you out of the sin and *Pollution* that once lodged in your own hearts, but he is also leading of you, by his eternal Spirit and Power, out of *Antichrist's Kingdom*, out of *Babylon* and *Egypt's Darkness*, that ye may be a *peculiar People*, a *Royal Nation*, and a *chosen Generation*, faithfully holding fast the Testimony of the Lord, your

your God in Righteousness, against all the *Impositions* and *carnal Commandments* of *Babylons* Merchants. Oh, this is your duty, ye called and chosen of God, and that which is your acceptable obedience with him for evermore, That you Fear, and Reverence, and Worship him, who is the Lord God everlasting, and him only to serve, not to bow down to *Antichrist*, nor any of his *carved Images* upon any *pain* or *penalties* whatsoever; for if you should, the Lord would not hold you *guiltless*, but he would enter into Judgement with you. Now then follow your Leader, Christ, the Captain of your Salvation, and mind the leadings of his Light, Power and Spirit in your own hearts, *and your feet shall not erre from the way of peace*, but he shall be your safe *Conduct*, and a sure defence round about you; so that when *Storms* and *Tempests*, *Temptations* and *Tribulations* do beset you on every hand, yet fear you not, but turn in quietly unto him that is your *strength*, and fear his name, and grieve not his Spirit by *murmuring*, but repose your whole Faith and Confidence in him for evermore, and so he will never leave you nor forsake you, but will go before you, leading on, *conquering* and to *conquer*, and he will fight your *Battels*, and work all your works in you and for you.

And thus dearly Beloved, we are Witnesses of that great *Ingagement* of the Lamb and his Followers against *Antichrist that man of Sin*, and his whole *Train of Idolaters*; and behold, the Word is gone out from him that is higher then the highest, **The Lamb and the Saints shall get the Victory.** And now my dear Brethren and Companions in the *Lamb's warfare*, think it not strange if the man of Sin muster up all his Forces against you, for to cause you (if it were possible) to bow down unto his Image; and for to cause you to bow under his Rule and Government, he shall use great violence, instruments of War, and carnal Weapons shall be formed against you, but behold those are not the Weapons of your Warfare, but you are to make defence in the Name, and Power, and Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose Weapons are not carnal, but Spiritual and Mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strong holds, &c. *And behold, here is the Faith and Patience of the Saints.*

And

And in this Faith and Patience, *Good men*, *Holy men* and *Prophets* of God, in former times finished their course, and kept the Faith, and thereby obtained a good Report amongst the Generations of the Just, and are set down in the Kingdom of their Father, having overcome, through Faith and Patience in the Spirit and Life, *which is the Blood of the Lamb*. And now though *Antichrist* may have so much power as to cast some of you into *Prison*, and exercise great wrath and cruelty towards you; yea, though it might extend so far as to take the lives of some from the earth; yet you are not thereby overcome, but therein you are made *Conquerors*, even through death to *Reign* in the *Kingdom* of the Father for evermore.

And now my dear *Brethren* and *Companions*, in the Faith and Patience, in the midst of Tribulations, put on Boldness and Confidence in the Name of the Lord, and in the *Godly Resolution* of your upright Hearts, follow the Lamb through the loss of all, rather than to be *insnared* to *fall* and be *taken*, for that will bring sorrow and misery into your Dwellings. O ye Dear, and Called, and Chosen of God, he hath long been preparing you, for the mighty day of his *Conquest* of *Antichrist* that *Man of Sin*. Oh how powerfully hath he Appeared, even the Lord our Righteousness, to draw and to lead away your hearts from the *Pleasure*, *Riches* and *Vanities* of this World, that those things might not be as Temptations unto you, so as to look back, be insnared, and taken; yea he hath already proved and tryed you, and your faithfulness is known unto the Lord, and altogether acceptable with our God, and he will seal you up for his own, and will crown you with the Beauty of his own *Image*, and with Glory, Honour and Praise, and that in the sight of his Enemies: Wherefore blessed are you all, that continue Patient in well-doing, and faithful Followers of the Lamb unto the end; ye shall receive a Crown of immortal Life, and *Heavenly Blessings* in this Life, and in that which is to come.

And so dear *Friends* and *Brethren* every where, herein the Lord hath Honoured you, and Blessed you, that have waited upon him in the Light, his blessed *Presence*, *Power* and *Life*, is with us, and *dwells in us*, and amongst us, who is our Strength and

and Rock, and heavenly Blessedness, both in this World, and that which is to come. And now unto him that is come unto us, and hath pitched his Tent in us, and that is able to keep unto the utmost, is my Soul and Body also, with yours freely offered up, into his *Heavenly Protection*, who is worthy to be *Feared*, *Reverenced* and *Obeyed*, and his pure Holy Name to be Blessed, Praised and Magnified over all, even from henceforth and for evermore, Amen.

I am your dear Brother, and Companion in Tribulations, and in the Kingdom and Patience of our Lord Jesus Christ.

London 24th. of the 7th. Month, 1663.

John Higgins.

THE END.

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